

United Nations



Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1382
29 April 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Two-day meeting to convene in Athens on Saturday, 1 May, with all three parties to conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, chaired by Lord Owen, Cyrus Vance and his successor, Thorvald Stoltenberg.
- + General Assembly excludes Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) from work of Economic and Social Council; vote is 107 in favour to none against, with 11 abstentions.
- + Since end of March, six UNTAC peace-keepers, one Japanese volunteer and his interpreter killed in attacks against UNTAC; 15 others injured, Secretary-General reports.
- + UNICEF Executive Director says billions should not be spent on peace-keeping when humanitarian assistance needs are not fully met; notes shortfall in humanitarian appeal for Somalia, while \$1 billion is spent on military intervention.
- + Basis for "ethnic cleansing" is being established in Latvia to force out tens of thousands of Russian-speaking inhabitants from the country, Russian President says.
- + Turkey says Armenia wrongly described comments by its leaders as "unfriendly"; accuses Armenia of fabricating allegations of Turkish military aid to Azerbaijan; calls on Yerevan to facilitate political solution to situation with Azerbaijan.

* * *

The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, Lord Owen, Cyrus Vance and his successor, Thorvald Stoltenberg, will convene a two-day meeting of the three parties to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina in Athens on Saturday, 1 May. Fred Eckhardt, spokesman for the Co-Chairmen, told correspondents this afternoon at Headquarters.

The meeting has been called in response to the decision by the Bosnian Serbs to reconsider their refusal to sign the Vance/Owen peace plan and to

(more)

schedule a second meeting of their Assembly next week. The purpose of this weekend's meeting will be to address security concerns, in particular those of the Bosnian Serbs in connection with the peace plan.

Among the issues to be discussed are the peace plan's concept of the internationally guaranteed corridors, which are to ensure freedom of movement throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina for the Bosnian Serb side, and of an International Access Authority, which would oversee the freedom of access to those corridors and guarantee it throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Participants in the meeting would be Franjo Tudjman, the President of Croatia, President Cosic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the Presidents of Serbia and of Montenegro. The three Bosnian parties would be represented by the President of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Alija Izetbegovic, the Bosnian Croat leader, Mate Boban, and Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader.

In a related development, the military commanders of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Bosnian Croats met yesterday to solidify their agreement to stop fighting. That agreement was brokered by Lord Owen in Zagreb last weekend, the spokesman said. Meanwhile, the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina was relatively calm today.

* * *

The General Assembly this morning decided that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) should not participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council.

It took that action on the recommendation of the Security Council by adopting a resolution by a vote of 107 in favour to none against, with eleven abstentions (Cameroon, China, India, Iraq, Kenya, Lesotho, Mexico, Myanmar, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe). The Council yesterday reaffirmed that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia could not continue automatically the membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Economic and Social Council was informed of the decision this morning by its President, Juan O. Somavia, as the Council continued its resumed organizational session at Headquarters.

* * *

Since late March, six peace-keepers serving with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and one Japanese volunteer and his interpreter have been killed in attacks against UNTAC. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has reported to the Security Council.

According to a letter to the Council President, dated 26 April, two of the slain peace-keepers were Bangladeshi and four Bulgarian. Another nine

(more)

Bulgarian soldiers, five Cambodian civilians and one Indonesian Civilian Police Monitor were injured in attacks mostly carried out by the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK), the letter said.

The Secretary-General was asked by the Council President at the beginning of April to report on casualties suffered by UNTAC, following an incident in which three Bulgarian soldiers were killed and three injured.
S/25669

* * *

It is senseless to spend billions of dollars on peace-keeping when smaller humanitarian assistance needs are not met, James Grant, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), said today. Vast sums are spent to protect the delivery of relief, while the relief operations themselves scrape by, he told UNICEF's Executive Board, which is holding its annual two-week session at Headquarters.

Over \$1 billion had been spent in the military intervention in Somalia, while only 10 per cent of the \$150 million humanitarian appeal for 1993 had been contributed, Mr. Grant noted. A delicate balance had to be found between competing demands, while keeping the needs of children in sight.

Yesterday, several representatives told the Executive Board that economies in transition faced special financial problems, refugee influxes and environmental disasters, all of which threatened children. Although social safety nets had been introduced, reforms had been slow and had resulted in declining living standards, one delegate stressed.

* * *

The basis for "ethnic cleansing" was being established in Latvia to force out tens of thousands of Russian-speaking inhabitants from the country, President Boris Yeltsin has said in a statement.

The Supreme Council of Latvia had begun consideration of a draft decision "on the granting of temporary stationing of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in the Latvian Republic", the Russian President said. Such a decision, would give a considerable part of the population of Latvia one year to leave the country. The Latvian authorities intended to deprive Russian-speaking inhabitants of the right to free choice of a place of residence, which is a basic human right.

President Yeltsin went on to say that international law did not permit a State to take measures leading to the worsening of a situation in the field of human rights. The attention of the international community had repeatedly been drawn to the lack of legal protection for ethnic Russians in the Baltic countries, he said.

(more)

The statement was transmitted to the Secretary-General in a letter dated 23 April, by Yuliy M. Vorontsov, the Russian Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

* * *

Statements made by Turkey's leaders regarding the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan were wrongly described by Armenia as "unfriendly", Turkey's Permanent Representative to the United Nations has said in a letter to the Security Council. He was responding to a letter to the Council from Armenia's Permanent Representative.

Turkey's leaders had only asked Armenia to end its aggression against Azerbaijan, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter and to contribute to peace in the region, the Turkish letter said.

Allegations that Turkey had sent weapons and servicemen disguised as civilians to Azerbaijan had been fabricated by Armenia in order to divert attention from its aggressive policy, according to the letter.

Turkey called on Armenia to respect its international commitments and to clear the way for a political solution to the situation with Azerbaijan. If Armenia complied, it could resume good relations with Turkey, which would ease its integration into the international community, the letter said.

* * * * *